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Application Serial No. 10/674,187
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 14, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-3337

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11 and 13-16 were rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 17 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if they are re-written to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

More particularly, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 6,859,975 to Ohta et al. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 6,735,818 to Hamada et al. Claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent publication number 2002/0162188 by Harmen. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harmen in view of U.S. patent number 5,145,499 to Dyson.

In response to the Examiner's bases for rejecting the claims, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to avoid all of the references cited by the Examiner. Paraphrased, both independent claims recite that main body of the vacuum cleaner includes a motor that generates a suction or vacuum. The main body is also claimed to be detachable from the frame by operating a push button and that the main body of the vacuum cleaner continues to operate as a vacuum when it is detached from the frame portion.

While all of the §102 references cited by the Examiner show sort of push-button detachable dirt receptacle, none of the references cited by the Examiner show the structure encompassed by the amended claims, namely, a vacuum cleaner that is separable into two parts and which remains operational after it is separated. One part of the claimed vacuum is a frame, into which a completely self-contained and fully operational vacuum cleaner "main body" can be mounted and detached by way of a single push button. When the main body is detached from the frame, it continues to function as a vacuum cleaner.

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Since both of the independent claims 1 and 16 avoid all of the references cited by the Examiner as amended, claims 1 and 16 are allowable over the cited art. Moreover, claims that were previously rejected but which depend from claims 1 and 16 are also allowable. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 17 were determined to be allowable, if they are re-written to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 16, however, the applicant believes that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. The applicant therefore withdraws amendment of claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 17 at this time.

Reconsideration of the amended claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Sincerely,


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